

Date 6/28/06

Time on Station: 158:00:26

Location: 9° 49.631 N , -104° 17.421

Site No. 210

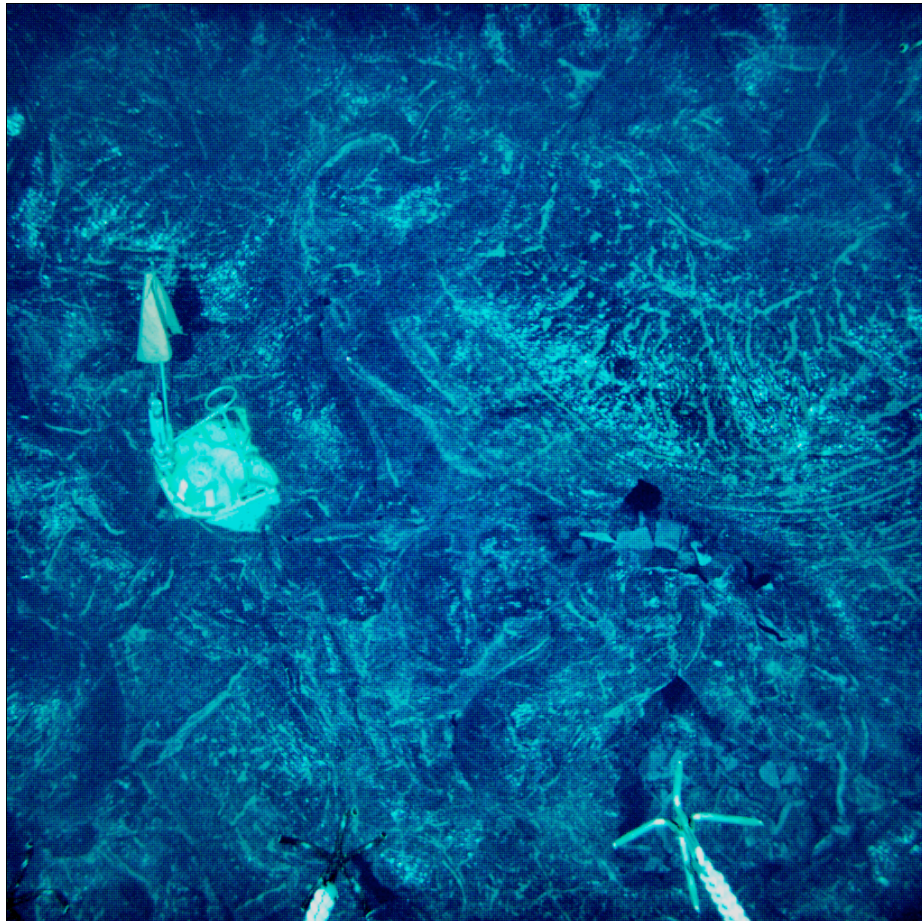
Instrument No. 45

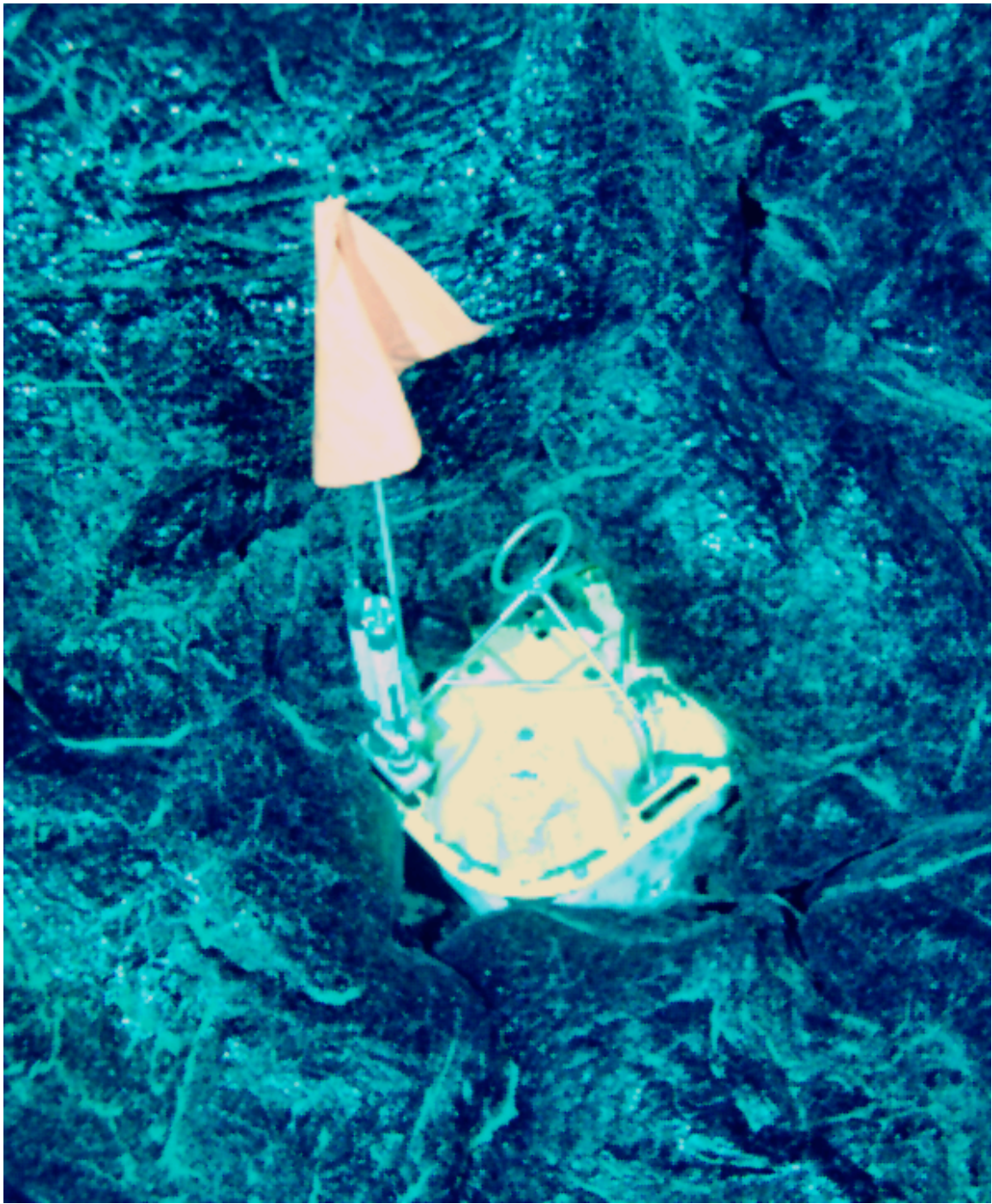
Discussion:

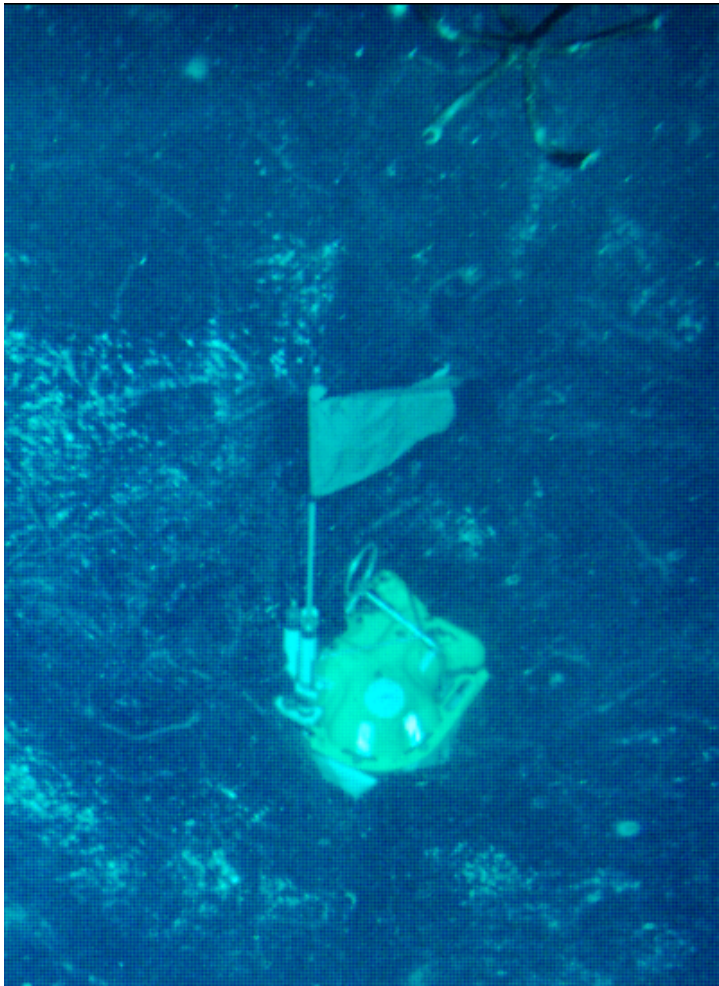
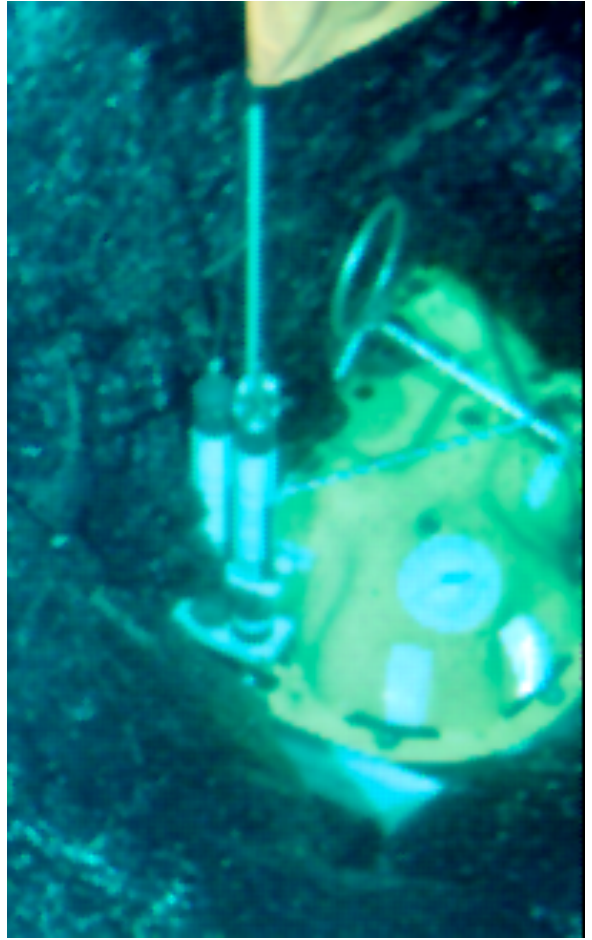
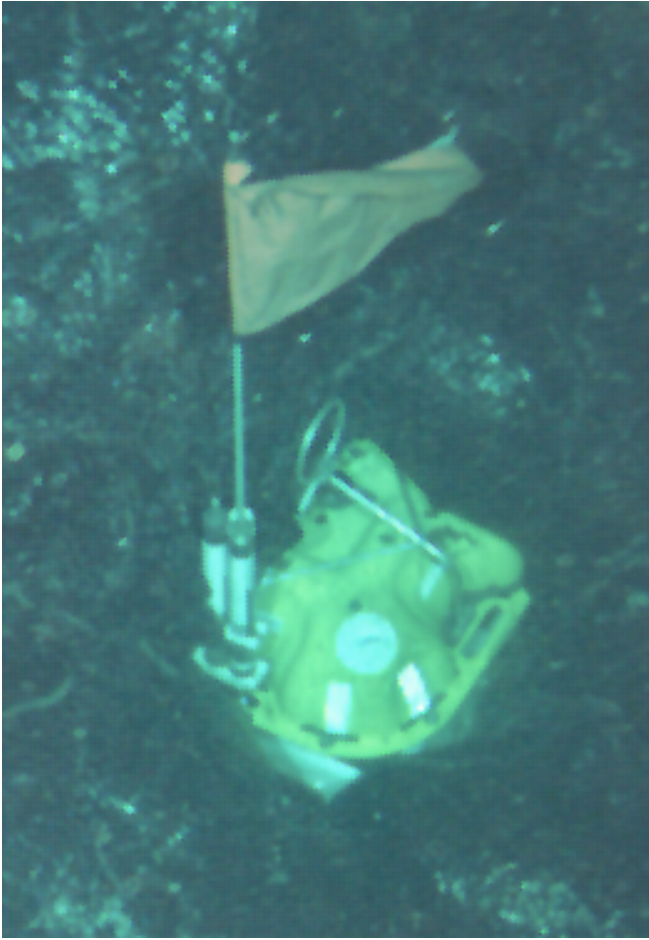
Once on site, multiple unsuccessful attempts were made to enable site 210 [obs45] using the hull transducer. A disable attempt was made on site 310 [obs73] since it was in the area. The Alvin top lab's hydrophone was turned on, and the response pings could be faintly heard! There was also a significant amount of noise in the water, so the communication approach was changed to employ the dunk transducer. The communication with sites 210 and 310 was crystal clear using the dunk transducer. Site 310 [unit 73] is ALIVE!

The tow cam was lowered and a systematic search pattern for site 210 began. Several new, smooth, and high velocity lava flows were observed in the vicinity. There were also very large (20 meters +) and deep areas of collapse as from the aftermath of a large inflationary event. It took about 4.5 hrs to obtain first visual. Several good images were then captured clearly showing the unit 73's encasement in a lava flow.

The photos:







00:26 UTC

- Enable 210 (45) [last known status: stuck]
 - No response 15x
 - Intermittent ranging @ 2505-2510m (right under boat)
 - There was absolutely nothing else enabled.
- Disable 310 (73)
 - Response heard over hydrophone!!
 - 7/7 pings... very faint but at regular interval
- Disable 301(49)
 - 7/7 pings over hydrophone only! Very faint.
- Several unsuccessful communication attempts made at communication with sites 206(31), 305(5), 202(12), 303(64), 203(70)
- Adjustment of gain on hydrophone reveals a significant and unknown noise source.

1:30 UTC

- Switch to dunk transducer
- Enable 210(45) [last known status: alive]
 - 7/7 ping confirmation
 - range: 2514 m
- Disable 310 (73)
 - 7/7 ping confirmation! Loud and clear.
- Disable 210
 - 7/7 ping confirmation.

5:48 UTC

- site 210, obs45 found
- pictures taken showing almost total encasement in lava.
- Recovery of this unit is deemed unfeasible